

CITY OF MIAMI BEACH
Office of the City Manager
Letter to Commission No. 148-2004



To: Mayor David Dermer and
Members of the City Commission

Date: June 10, 2004

From: Jorge M. Gonzalez
City Manager

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jorge".

Subject: AMENDING THE ORDINANCE ADDRESSING NEWSRACKS

In a previous LTC information was provided about the efforts of Public Works Department to revise the current ordinance governing the permitting, location, and maintenance of portable newspaper sales racks (newsracks). At the City Commission meeting on June 9, 2004, a referral of the proposed revised ordinance to the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee was deferred. During discussion on the referral an incorrect impression may have been made regarding the outreach and discussion conducted by staff.

The proposed revision to the newsrack ordinance is the result of a four month collaborative effort by staff, publishers and citizens. Modular newsracks were discussed frequently, but it was emphasized that the goal of the newsrack group was to revise the ordinance regulating individual newsracks and that the modular newsrack application was still in the development stage. At the group's request, Public Works and CIP attended the meeting on February 24, 2004, to specifically discuss modular newsracks. A lengthy discussion was held which culminated in assurances that current plans called for installation of modular newsracks only on Ocean Drive and Lincoln Road.

The attached email was sent to the group on June 8, 2004. It included the additional revision to the draft ordinance addressing modular newsracks and announced a newsrack group meeting on June 22, 2004, to discuss the issue prior to the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee meeting in July.

The success of the newsrack group's efforts is due largely to the participation in the process by publishers such as the Miami Herald, SunPost, USA Today, Street, Sun Sentinel, and Entertainment Weekly. Effective working relationships have been established. I am confident that continuation of this forum will permit the modular newsrack issue to be addressed to the satisfaction of all concerned.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any other concerns or questions.

JMG/ROM/FHB

c: Robert C. Middaugh, Assistant City Manager
Fred H. Beckmann, Public Works Director

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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Halfhill, Robert

From: Villar, Elisa
Sent: Tuesday, June 08, 2004 2:50 PM
To: Robert L. Metz (rmetz@usatoday.com); Andrew Stark (astark@miamisunpost.com); Don Louser (dlouser@herald.com); Don Worth (dontonton@aol.com); Elisa Villar (ElisaVillar@miamibeachfl.gov); Elizabeth Maclaren (libbymac@bellsouth.net); Hector Guevara (hguevara@herald.com); Howard Salus (hsalus@entnews.com); Michael Albo (malbo@herald.com); Michael Cohen (michael.cohen@miaminewtimes.com); Ronnie Singer; Begoña Calcerrada; Carlos Curbelo; Fernando Alonso; Halfhill, Robert; Hector Rodriguez; Julian Suardi; Marlo Courtney; Morris Sunshine; Paul Miller; Rivas, Jose
Subject: Newsrack Ordinance

The revised newsrack ordinance is on the agenda for the City Commission meeting tomorrow. The purpose is to have it referred to the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee for discussion and review. The ordinance revision is already in the City Attorney's Office for legal review. The modular newsrack subject is gaining momentum. I was asked to include the following item as the last paragraph of the newsrack ordinance revision.

Sec. 82.192. Modular Newsracks

The City reserves the right to install and regulate modular newsracks at locations determined by the City.

I have also been asked to continue our committee meetings and broaden our discussion to include modular newsracks. My intentions are to schedule a meeting of our committee in the Public Works Conference Room for Tuesday, June 22, 2004 at 10:00. Please advise me of your availability and RSVP with Elisa Villar.

Thanks

Bob Halfhill

06/10/2004